

I accuse General Billot of having held positive proofs of the innocence of Dreyfus, and of having suppressed them, of having perpetrated this crime against humanity and against justice with a political object, and in order to save the compromised Staff. I accuse General de Boisdeffre and General Gonse of having become accomplices in the same crime, the former doubtless from clerical passion,¹ the other, perhaps, from that *esprit de corps* which makes the War Office a sacred and unassailable ark. I accuse General de PeHieux and Major Eavary of having made a wicked inquiry, that is an inquiry of the most monstrous partiality, of which we have, in the. fetter's report, an imperishable monument of naive audacity. I accuse the three handwriting experts,² Sieurs Belhomme, Varinard, and Couard, of having made lying and fraudulent reports, unless medical examination should prove that they suffer from diseased sight and judgment. I accuse the "War Office of having carried on in the press, particularly in 'L^clair' and * L'Echo de Paris/ an abominable campaign in order to mislead public opinion and screen its transgressions. Lastly I accuse the first court-martial of having violated the law by condemning an accused man on a document which was kept secret j and I accuse the second court-martial of having covered that illegality by order; in its turn committing the judicial crime of knowingly acquitting a guilty person. " In preferring these charges I am not ignorant of the fact that I expose myself to the penalties of Clauses 30 and 31 of the Press Law of July 29, 1881, which punishes libel. And it is voluntarily that I expose myself. As for the men whom I accuse, I do not know them. I have never seen them. I have no resentment or

¹ General de Boisdeffre, the Head of the General Staff, was a devout Catholic and an extreme anti-Semite. He had been French ambassador in Kussia and it was there that his hatred of the Jews had taken birth. Boisdeffre did not place Dreyfus on the General Staff, but found him on it upon taking office, the appointment having been made by Boisdeffre's predecessor, General de Miribel, Boisdeffre was largely under the thumb of Father da Lac, a Jesuit, his confessor, to whom he repeatedly confided matters connected with his duties.

² Those experts asserted that Dreyfus had traced the "*bordereau*" from Esterhazy's handwriting in order to saddle him with the guilt of it.